

THE ALUMNI SUPPLEMENT

DEVOTED TO THE ALUMNI
OF TRINITY COLLEGE



ALL THE ALUMNI NEWS WE
CAN OBTAIN
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ARCTIC EXPLORATION.

An Account of Leffingwell's Work in the North.

In the last issue of the *Supplement*, a short account was given of the explorations of Ernest deKoven Leffingwell, of the class of 1896, in the Arctic region, along the coast of Alaska and in the vicinity of the Flaxman Islands. Since then we have been fortunate in securing a more detailed account of Mr. Leffingwell's career as an explorer.

Leffingwell's Arctic exploration began with the first Baldwin-Ziegler Polar Expedition, with which he wintered in Franz Joseph Land. A companion of his arduous life there was Eignar Mikkelsen, a Dane, deep-sea captain and explorer. With him he formed a plan for the exploration of Beaufort Sea, north of Alaska. In this enterprise he interested the London Geographical Society and some influential people in England, among whom was the Duchess of Bedford, whose name they gave to their vessel sailing from Vancouver in May, 1906. The expedition was largely financed by Leffingwell, from advances made by his father.

The purpose of this Anglo-American Arctic Expedition was the discovery of land north of Alaska, and the charting of the Continental shelf of that sea. It was not at that time known whether Beaufort Sea was a real ocean or only a shallow sea like the banks of Newfoundland. Their vessel was caught by the ice at Flaxman Island, near the coast, not far from the Canadian boundary line, and they went into winter quarters there in the shelter of the island. In a perilous sledge journey over the ice, they ascertained the limits of the Continental Shelf, and proved that there is a true ocean north of Alaska. They discovered no land. On their return to Flaxman they found their ship had gone down in the ice pressure, and their crew had established a camp on land. During the following summer all the members of the expedition, except Mikkelsen and Leffingwell, returned home, being rescued by a whaling vessel.

During the following winter, Mikkelsen returned, driving a dog sledge, alone through the Arctic wilderness, without trail or shelter. It was a remarkable performance. This same intrepid explorer, with a companion, has been lost for two years past in the ice fields of Greenland. He was found and rescued last summer.

After Mikkelsen's departure from Flaxman Island, Leffingwell was for several months the only white man on the coast for 500 miles. Several Esquimo families camped near him and were helpful in many ways. Sagavich, hereditary chief of the coast families, Mr. Leffingwell describes as a man of intelligence and reliable character. Some of the young Esquimos have assisted in the surveying work, which

has been carried on along the coast in summer and among the mountains in winter.

In the summer of 1908 Leffingwell returned to spend the winter in the States, suffering at times from cold! With all-fur clothing he was comfortable during the Arctic winter, and the weight of all his fur garments for out-of-door wear was less than we require here in winter.

In the spring of 1909 the explorer sailed his own vessel, the *Argo*, a fifty-foot yawl, by the outside passage, from Seattle to Flaxman Island. He had a crew of two sailors and a cook. The voyage was cold and tempestuous, but he brought the yacht through safely and has used it to great advantage in summer for transportation of supplies from Point Barrow. By a whaling vessel he had forwarded lumber from which he built a better cabin, and his last three years have been quite comfortable. He says he has learned from the Esquimos how to dress and live in that land of ice. Though his camp is not so far north as was reached by the Baldwin-Ziegler expedition, he has about two months of continuous night. With abundant supplies in the house, with quantities of ducks, fish, caribou and seal meat frozen in the ice room (which is an excavation in an ice cliff), and coal and kerosene for warmth and light; with fur clothing and a smart team of sledge dogs and a fur tent, he made himself comfortable in mid-winter, even among the mountains.

The scientific work in which our explorer has been interested, is astronomical, geological, and geodetic. The first named has been carried on with good instruments, chiefly for ascertaining the true longitude of Flaxman Island as a point of departure for the north coast. This he has done by many observations of occultation of stars. He describes some of the difficulties of the work in the open with mercury forty degrees below zero. Even the warmth of the breath near the instruments affects their accuracy and clouds the lenses. All metal except adjusting screws must be wrapped in woolen cloth; the hands must be covered or they would freeze in a few minutes, only a small bit of the thumb and forefinger being exposed. Even the pencil for recording the results must be covered.

An interesting coincidence with the completion of this work is worthy of note. The Joint Commission of Canada and the United States has been making the boundary line between these countries, running north through Alaska and coming to the terminus on the north coast not many miles from Flaxman Island. This ought, of course, to give the true longitude of that point, and a comparison of the results of the two methods may soon be made.

Geological exploration has been carried on among the mountains nearest the coast, the most northerly range in the United States, never before investigated in a scientific way. Important data have been secured, connecting links between Siberian formation and those of eastern ranges have been found, and fossils unknown to the museums of the world have been discovered.

The geographical work along 150 miles of the coast is perhaps the most important, and has been attended by the greatest difficulty. The perilous and exhausting sledge expedition over the ice at Beaufort Sea, during the first winter (described in Mikkelsen's book, "Fighting the Arctic Sea"), ascertained the extent of the Continental Shelf and was a substantial achievement. The charting of the coast line with its numerous islands and estuaries, never before accurately mapped, and the

record of soundings, with tidal and meteorological observations, are important results of that work. The discovery and mapping of several lakes and rivers of that region are also notable. The geographical work, considering the shortness of the summers and the unfavorable weather which prevailed most of the time, is a witness to the energy and industry of the explorer, who had only Esquimo boys for his assistance and an open whale-boat for transportation along the coast.

Mr. Leffingwell will spend the winter with friends in the States, giving some time to the completion of his maps and tabulating his observations, in Washington, where the Government will provide every facility for the work, and return to his camp in the spring to dispose of his vessel, whaleboats, and camp equipment and stores, and bring back his instruments and many geological and zoological specimens. The Government, it is believed, will publish his maps and scientific data, and his friends will eagerly await the appearance of his personal narrative, which is it hoped he may be induced to write, of his Seven Years in the Arctic.

NEW YORK ALUMNI.

An Account of Their Doings at the New York City Club.

The members of the New York Association of the Alumni of Trinity College worked themselves into a high state of excitement over the present prosperous condition of the college and the extensive future plans for it at the annual meeting and banquet held at the City Club of New York, Thursday evening, December 5. President Luther, ably assisted by a quartette of the most militant members of the alumni association, pictured the present needs of the college and the duty of the alumni in the coming campaign for a million-dollar endowment. The speakers at the banquet were: President Luther, Judge Joseph Buffington, '75, of Pittsburgh, S. Breck P. Trowbridge, '83, of New York, Charles C. Barton, jr., '91, the alumni trustee, and Rev. Karl Reiland, the newly installed rector of St. George's Church of New York, one of the largest churches in the world. The immediate results of the banquet were the election of a committee on publicity to see that the acts of the New York Association are made known to newspaper readers, and the promise of the executive committee to work out plans for booming the endowment campaign in the fertile New York field.

At a meeting of the Association previous to the banquet, the following officers were elected: President, Charles E. Hotchkiss, '82; vice-presidents, J. Cleveland Cady, '60, William P. Clyde, '65, Grenville Kane, '75, S. Breck P. Trowbridge, '83; secretary, Fred C. Hinkel, jr., '06; treasurer, Philip J. McCook, '95; executive committee, Aubrey D. Vibbert, '99, DeForest Hicks, '96, James Albert Wales, '01, P. H. Bradin, '03, Bern Budd, '08.

A vote of thanks was given to the retiring president, Hon. William E. Curtis, '75, and the other officers.

The report of the committee on co-operation, which is designed to secure Trinity employees for Trinity employers, was made by the chairman, James Albert Wales, '01, and sufficient money was appropriated to allow the committee to extend its activities.

The noteworthy items on the menu cards were the slots between names of high-class dishes, where a chorus composed of Aubrey D. Vibbert, '99, and others sang Trinity songs from a booklet prepared by the secretary.

The favorite selection was "Show me the Scotchman." Dr. Luther in Mr. Dooley's score was also popular.

Some of the alumni wanted to know "What's the matter with 'the team'?" When they were reminded that "the team" won six out of nine games, the invariable answer was: "I take it all back. I was thinking of the Wesleyan game, but that record is pretty good." Professor Gettell and the individual players came in for high praise.

Retiring President William E. Curtis, '75, was toastmaster during the digestive period. He thanked the members for their co-operation during the past year, and urged the adoption of measures to increase the attendance at the meetings.

President Luther brought the greetings of the Maryland Association, whose banquet he had attended the previous evening. He told the now familiar story of J. Pierpont Morgan's gift of Williams Hall as a library and administration building, and outlined the plans now in the hands of Benjamin Wistar Morris, the architect, to erect a building at the end of the present main edifice. He said that Trinity is going to grow into a college of over 350 students as soon as the buildings to house them are erected and the endowment to provide for professors raised. He asked for earnest work from the New York alumni. He wanted suggestions and loyal efforts to help the trustees. He explained the present situation at Trinity in regard to increasing the efficiency of the departments. His address was the most earnest presentment of the case of Growth versus Desuetude that the New York members have yet heard.

Judge Buffington came from Pittsburgh to the banquet to tell of the work the alumni were already doing. The work of Trinity's graduates in all parts of the country and their influence in the communities where they live were told of to illustrate the need for increased facilities to develop more of the same men. Judge Buffington's speech was up to his usual standard of clear presentation of the relation of the alumni to their college.

S. Breck P. Trowbridge contributed the following carefully prepared and illuminating address:

"It has happened that during the last ten years, I have, through my connection with the Academy of Rome, the Beaux Arts Society, and the Educational Committee of the Institute of Architects, been in a position to observe some things which may be interesting, and which I hope may be taken into consideration by the trustees.

About four years ago the Institute of Architects appointed a committee to report on the whole subject of architectural education. This committee was carefully selected to represent the most divergent views. There was one pronounced classicist, one equally pronounced Mediaevalist, one who represented the French Ecole, one who had been brought up in the English way by apprenticeship and one who believed in the modern vocational system. After two years of thorough investigation and visiting all the universities and schools of technology where architecture was taught, each member wrote a separate report. Curiously enough, these five reports were found to be exactly identical in essential point. Although architecture is probably the most highly technical of the professions, and although one would think that if ever special vocational training were of value it would be in this particular branch, it was the unanimous opinion that all the schools and departments of architecture were giving too much time to technical studies and entirely too little to the

humanities or general cultural studies. For example, our committee found that the architectural schools were producing draughtsmen, specification writers, structural engineers, etc., but not architects.

The report of this committee was unanimously adopted by the Institute. It was sent with recommendations to the twenty or more institutions where architecture is taught, including Harvard, Columbia, Cornell, Syracuse, Pennsylvania, Washington, Illinois, California and Wisconsin, with the result that all changed their courses, some going so far as to require the degree of Bachelor of Arts for entrance in the architectural departments, while others have lengthened their course to six years—the first four of which are almost entirely devoted to general cultural studies.

The application which I wish to make of this illustration to Trinity College is this: The tendency today is to specialize, and there is a tendency among educators to meet this condition by breaking up general knowledge into its component parts, giving to each student the special training which he is supposed to require in a chosen career. But the specialist is nearly always, in the nature of things, a subordinate. It is perfectly natural that there should be many great institutions devoted to the education of specialists, because the great majority of men must always be in subordinate positions, but it is equally true that there must be some provision made for the few who are to occupy the higher positions.

It is impossible for the small colleges to compete with the great universities and the great technical schools with their millions of endowment in special training, and it is, I believe, equally impossible for those great caravanseries, broken up as they are into a thousand specialties, ever to produce the kind of general cultivation which is essential to the man who is going to play a leading part in the world. This however, the small college can do, and it seems to me that of all the colleges

Trinity is best adapted by its tradition and history to fulfill this particular function in our national education.

That fact that it is a small college should not be a matter of regret. On the contrary it is our great opportunity. In my opinion, Trinity should be kept small, and the number of its students limited. I should be sorry to see Trinity give way to the popular cry for special education.

I should like to have it become a recognized fact that the Bachelor of Arts degree of Trinity carried with it a great distinction—that it signified a type far superior to the ordinary college graduate. But you cannot have distinction and numbers. I should like to do away with all the other degrees, and confine ourselves to producing that superior type which has made certain of the colleges of Oxford and Cambridge famous this world over.

Now, gentlemen, there are going to be two distinct types of institutions in this country; the comprehensive and the selective. That is the line of cleavage, and it has already begun. We have got to choose between them. It is up to us to say whether Trinity College shall take her place at the head of the line, as a center of learning whose degree will stamp her graduates as men of high cultivation, high character and real education, fitted to occupy any position, prepared to equip themselves for any calling."

Charles C. Barton, jr., '91, the alumni trustee, delivered a spirited talk in defense of the work of the undergraduates. He took the alumni to task for their shortcomings and pointed out their duties. He praised the *Tripod* highly and gave it credit for keeping the alumni entirely interested in Trinity.

Rev. Karl Reiland, '97, made an extemporaneous speech filled with reminiscences of college days. He urged the alumni to love Trinity as much as they could—and then to fight for her. He said he was sending as many young men as he could influence to Trinity because he loved and believed in her.

After the speeches, the executive committee was authorized to increase its numbers with a view to carrying on a share of the endowment campaign, and a committee, consisting of Edward S. Van Zile, '84, W. F. Collins, '93, and James Albert Wales, '01, was appointed to take charge of publicity.

The following were present: Rev. Dr. W. H. Vibbert, '57, J. Cleveland Cady, '60, W. R. Mowe, '70, Dr. S. M. L. Chrystie, '63, William E. Curtis, '75, Judge Joseph Buffington, '75, Rev. F. W. White, '79, Charles E. Hotchkiss, '82, S. Breck P. Trowbridge, '83, Lawson Purdy, '84, Robert Thorne, '85, E. S. Van Zile, '84, Dr. Winfred R. Martin, formerly professor of romance languages, Dr. William S. Hubbard, '87, C. C. Barton, jr., '91, T. R. Hoisington, '91, Dr. Victor C. Pedersen, '91, G. N. Hamlin, '91, J. J. Penrose, '95, Howard Greenly, '00, W. F. Collins, '93, M. H. Coggeshall, '96, De Forest Hicks, '96, Rev. Karl Reiland, '97, J. H. Secour, jr., '98, Rev. W. A. Sparks, '99, Dr. R. A. Benson, '99, A. D. Vibbert, '99, G. P. Ingersoll, '81, E. P. Taylor, '00, A. S. Wynkoop, '01, J. A. Wales, '01, P. H. Bradin, '03, H. R. McIlwain, '04, Rev. T. B. Bartlett, '04, C. W. Remsen, '05, T. C. Hinkel, jr., '06, Bern Budd, '08, W. S. Buchanan, '09, Richardson L. Wright, '10, T. F. Flanagan, '12.

'Neath the Elms, of course.

In the Journals.

Richardson L. Wright, '10, with Mr. Bassett Digby, is the author of an article entitled, "On the Manchurian Border," in the December number of the *Travel Magazine*. Mr. Wright also had in the *New York Times* Review of Books for December 1, a charming review of George Allen and Company's new edition of Mediaeval Hymns.

The Rev. Melville K. Bailey, '79, contributed to the *Churchman* of November 9, a timely article on "The Balkan Christians."

A FEW NOTES.

'96—The Paris edition of the *New York Herald* for September 29 contained the following item connected with a Trinity alumnus. It is headed "Child's Doll Stirs Army": War Department officials have taken steps to give redress to a little girl whose China doll was damaged by heavy artillery practice at Fort Williams, near Portland, Me. A board of officers was directed to pass upon her claim for damages to her toy playmate caused by concussion of the big guns. The doll was the property of Marian Coggeshall, daughter of Mr. Murray H. Coggeshall, a New York banker, who has a summer home at Cape Elizabeth. A correspondence lasting two weeks was carried on by Washington and Portland officials.

'98—Joseph H. Lecour, Jr., is a member of the firm of Doremus & Lecour, attorneys and counselors, 50 Church Street, New York City.

'99—McWalter B. Sutton, familiarly known as "Pop", and captain of Trinity's football team in 1898, has been coaching the line of the New York University team since the game between that institution and Trinity this fall. He will probably be one of the coaching staff next year.

'02—Joseph Crane is in the electrical business in Duluth, Minn. He is at present president of the Minnesota Electrical Association.

'02—C. Curtiss Peck has given up his position as Superintendent of the Nelson Valve Co., Chestnut Hill, Philadelphia, Pa., and his present address is 1084 Iranistan Avenue, Bridgeport, Conn.

'09—A son, Sherman, was born to Mr. and Mrs. Harry L. Maxon of Beaumont, Texas, on October 2.

'10—W. Gilbert Livingston has been appointed assistant to the general manager of the Briggs-Detroit Automobile Co., Detroit, Mich., with the particular duties of advertising and assistant sales manager.

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